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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Docket File
Rm: 222

POLICY & PLANNING
BRANCH ROOM 5202

2 MAR 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7330-7/1700A3

Honorable Trent Lott
United States Senator
One Government Plaza
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

RECEIVED

MAR - 5 1993

Dear Senator Lott:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This is in reply to your letter of February 10, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of several of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

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Honorable Trent Lott

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We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituents' concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituents to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ralph A. Haller", is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature, the word "for" is written in a cursive script.

Ralph A. Haller
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures:
Notice
Order
Discussion paper

cc:
Chief, PRBureau
Chief, LM&M Divison
Docket Files, Room 222
P&P Branch File (Pink)

CNTL NO - 9300652

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Congressional

Dur OBC: 2-25-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM 02/17/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300652	02/17/93	02/10/93	03/02/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Senator	Trent Lott	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
several	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRE/mm 2-18-93			
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
02/17/93			

REMARKS: Respond to the Gulfport, MS office.

TRENT LOTT
MISSISSIPPI

CHAIRMAN:
COMMITTEE ON
COMMITTEES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2403

February 10, 1993

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET

f RB
92-235
652

**PLEASE REPLY TO:
ONE GOVERNMENT PLAZA
GULFPORT, MS 39501**

The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Sikes:

I have been contacted by several constituents concerning NPRM-PR Docket 92-235. I shall appreciate your looking into the matters outlined in these constituents letters and your advising me of your decision.

Thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Trent Lott
Trent Lott

TL:rl

enclosures

January 27, 1993

Hunter Yarborough, Jr.
206 Alyce Place
Long Beach, MS 39560-5304

The Honorable Trent Lott
United States Senate
487 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lott:

I write with regard to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proceeding with PR Docket 92-235.

I fly radio control airplanes for enjoyment and relaxation. Some of my planes match or exceed design specifications of full-size aircraft and may cost over \$1000.00 per plane. The hobby could become a job after retirement, if there will be frequencies available then or affordable insurance then.

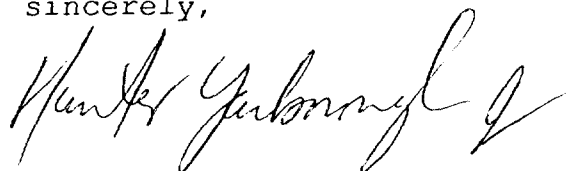
The present radio frequencies for radio control models are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. This same band is used for mobile dispatch operations. In 1991, new super narrow-width frequency requirements were implemented for radio control airplanes. This meant that more channels could be squeezed together without as much risk of interference. Now, the FCC wants to crowd, split, and rearrange the band with more land mobile frequencies.

I am told of the 50 frequencies presently available for radio control airplanes, only 19 will remain if the FCC does what it proposes in this docket. Some fliers may not heed the interference warnings for overcrowded channels. A fifty pound airplane that is capable of actual speeds of 100 mph or more can be a very serious threat to life and property.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans enjoy this hobby. Many manufacturing, wholesale, and retail companies depend on radio control enthusiasts for their business. This in no way reflects the number of jobs that could be lost should manufactures, wholesale companies, and retail companies close as a result of the decline of this hobby. Please note that many commercial and military aircraft were once prototypes flown as a radio control airplane.

Please protect this avocation and occupation from a potentially grave error in judgement by the FCC, as I remain,

sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hunter Yarborough, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

1501 Hide-A-Way Lane
Carriere, MS 39426
28 Jan. 1993

Senator Trent Lott
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sir:

I'm writing to express my concern over the Federal Communication Commission's proposed new rule making (NPRM-PR Docket 92-235) concerning frequency restructuring, specifically changes to Part 88 and Part 95.

I'm very active in the Radio Controlled Model Aircraft Hobby, along with tens of thousands of other Americans. I'm also the Secretary/Treasurer of a fairly large Model Aviation Club (Mississippi Aces, Inc.) located in the south Pearl River County area. The proposed changes in frequency allotments will have a tremendous negative impact on this hobby, both financially and more importantly in safety.

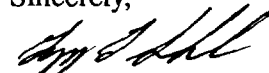
The need for additional frequency allotments for commercial users is understood, but the needs of commercial users should not come at the expense of other users such as the Radio Controlled Model Hobby/Industry. The FCC as the Government Agency that oversees and regulates frequency allotment and use, should understand the necessity of maintaining CLEAR channels that are free of interference. The proposed changes would do just the opposite. First, it would allow mobile transmitters (cellular phones) with four times the power output that Remote Control Radio transmitters are restricted to by regulation, and at frequencies that are only 2.5 kHz away from our assigned frequencies. Second, the technical specifications proposed for this new equipment would allow LEGAL frequency tolerances that would place their transmission signals directly on TOP OF OUR assigned frequencies.

This interference JAMMING of our assigned frequencies will create a safety hazard of unreasonable proportions. Let me explain my point; I personally fly many large model aircraft, that by the way are becoming more and more common in the hobby. My personal model aircraft have wing spans that range from a minimum of 6 feet up to 10 feet, with one under construction with a wing span of 12 feet. These miniature aircraft weigh from 5 pounds up to around 25 pounds, and fly at speeds of from 50 to 100 mph. I must point out that my models are not fast by today's standards, many models flown today can exceed 150 mph with ease. Do you have any idea what damage a 5 pound object moving at 50 mph can do? Then try to think of the damage a 25 pound object moving at 100 mph could do! Loosing control of one of these miniature aircraft due to frequency JAMMING would be totally unacceptable.

If the new rules are adopted, I will have three choices to follow as to my hobby. First, would be to throw away over \$5,000 worth of radio equipment (much of it being less than two years old), and buying a few thousands of dollars worth of new radio equipment. Second, would be to ignore the danger, to pretend nothing is wrong, and accept loosing control of my models every so often due to interference as a normal occurrence. Or, I could just give up the hobby, as being to hazardous due to the incompetency of the Government Agency that governs the Radio Frequency Spectrum.

Since I have no intention of giving up my hobby, I hope you will use your influence on our behalf to convince the FCC that the proposed rule changes are in error, and have the FCC withdraw or at least modify the proposal.

Sincerely,



Gregory G. Sakala

January 28, 1993

The Honorable Trent Lott
The United States Senate
Washington, D.C.
20510

Dear Sir:

Subject: Negative Impact of FCC NPRM-PR Docket 92-235

I am a retired NASA engineer and I looked forward in my retirement years to having more time to enjoy designing, flying, and competing with radio-controlled model aircraft (R/C models). This has been my principal hobby and occasional business for over 40 years.

A few years ago, the FCC increased the number of radio bands we and other land mobile service users could use. At that time, all R/C modelers had to replace very expensive radio equipment, but it was worth it because of the increased number of bands. Like many others, I had to scrap \$900 worth of good, but illegal, radio equipment, and spend over \$1200 to replace it (with middle-priced radio equipment).

Now, the FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM-PR Docket 92-235) which will prove devastating to the large number of R/C modelers.

Our frequency regulations were established in Part 95, but now the FCC is proposing changes in these frequencies in another document, Part 88; no notice was given for this cross-over.

To the point: The FCC proposes to introduce additional radio bands between those bands presently used by R/C modelers, and the users of the new bands may use extremely powerful mobile transmitters. This will not only make our equipment dangerous to use, but incredibly difficult to replace.

Radio manufacturers in the U.S. have been queried and they state that to produce model radios as frequency-selective as this proposal necessitates would be prohibitively expensive to produce.

The danger will come from modelers, using legal radio equipment, losing control of their model because some mobile operator is operating a high-powered transmitter on nearly the same band as the modeler.

Some of our models have wing spans to 10 feet, weigh as much as 50 pounds, and fly nearly 100 miles per hour.

We know such models can do considerable damage; consequently, we adhere to a national, published safety code. The majority of fliers have special insurance through the 100,000 member Academy of Model Aeronautics, the model-governing organization affiliated with the National Aeronautic Association.

We will be put out of this activity by the cost of either equipment or insurance should PR Docket 92-235 become binding, and a great technological, recreational activity will be lost in this nation. (Did you know that two NASA engineers used their own model designs and equipment to demonstrate that the Shuttle could be safely carried on and released from a mother-ship - - before such a thing was proposed by NASA? There are too many examples to list.)

There are many of us in Mississippi who will be financially affected should PR Docket 92-235 become binding.

Please provide whatever support you feel is appropriate. Time is short; the FCC needs responses by February 26, 1993. I look forward to hearing from you and learning how PR Docket 92-235 fares.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth D. Cashion".

Kenneth D. Cashion
235 Tennyson Cove
Picayune, MS - 39466
(601) 798-5807

JAMES F. FIELDS
15424 Northrup Cuevas Road
Gulfport, MS 39503

January 29, 1993

THE HONORABLE TRENT LOTT
487 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lott,

In reference to the proposed Federal Communication Commission Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM-PR Docket 95-235), the following comments are submitted for your consideration:

My first attempt, although unsuccessful, at model airplane construction was attempted fifty-six years ago at the ripe old age of seven. The hobby has provided me untold hours of enjoyment and pleasure through the years.

The first attempt at the fascinating idea of radio control was not attempted until the year 1953 and needless to say I was "hooked" because radio control meant you were more likely to get an expensive model that you had devoted many tedious hours of construction to - back.

My military career prevented me from pursuing this hobby continuously; however, my thoughts of it were always there. Upon retirement, I moved on to a position in industry where I helped supervise the construction of a number of ships for the US Navy.

In 1980, the specter of colon cancer came to attack me and had it not been for my interest in building model airplanes, I'm afraid he may have carried me away. This malady resulted in me having eight major surgeries in as many years and I'm sure the hobby had a lot to do with my final total recovery. It is a time consuming hobby that keeps your mind off your problems regardless of their origin. I have been cancer free since 1983 and am considered to be a "cure". Thank God for medicine!

There are currently three miniature aircraft in my stable, two of which weigh 20.5 pounds with the third weighing 15.5. A fourth is under construction which should weigh in somewhere in between these extremes. Last year, one of these models was measured by a Mississippi Highway Patrol radar at an average speed of 88 mph. A model weighing 20.5 pounds travelling at 88 mph

could inflict serious bodily harm should loss of control occur as a result of "capture" by a more powerful radio station in the same frequency band. Additionally, there is about \$12,000.00 invested in the radios, engines and airframes of my three and one half models. I would hate to think my investment is in jeopardy.

Presently, I am serving as President of the Mississippi Coast Radio Control Club which is chartered under the Academy of Model Aeronautics and I represent sixty active members. Our club represents a huge investment in radio equipment that would be seriously affected by the FCC approval of other radio services having higher powered stations interspersed within our radio control frequencies. Furthermore, such an action may result in a serious safety problem where serious injury could result to the unsuspecting.

Therefore, I recommend that you do all within your power to prevent the implementation of this proposed rule change.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James F. Fields". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

JAMES F. FIELDS
President
MS Coast RC Club